APOCALYPTIC HORSEPLAY

BY BOREDMAN

A DEAL?

WHAT KIND OF DEAL?

THE BAD KIND.

ONE I WAS FORCED TO MAKE IN ORDER TO GET US ALL OUT OF THAT HOUSE.

HEY, THAT'S RIGHT! HOW DID WE GET OUT OF THERE?

YEAH, I CAN'T REMEMBER EITHER

IT'S FUZZY...

WAIT, I REMEMBER!

I WAS STANDING OVER ONE OF THOSE EXORCISTS IN THE BASEMENT, AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW WE WERE ALL STANDING OUT IN PROSPECT PARK.

WAS IT YOU?

UN-FORTUNATELY NO, I HAD HELP.

HELP? FROM WHERE?

ABOVE OR BELOW?

BELOW.

CRAP.

WHAT DID YOU DO, MOT?

PLEASE DON'T TELL US YOU SWORE ALLEGIANCE TO THE MORNING STAR.

DID YOU SIGN US BACK UP FOR JUDGMENT DAY?!

OF COURSE NOT!

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN.

HE WANTED US TO LOOK AFTER SOMEONE: A CHILD.

I DIDN'T REALIZE WHO THE CHILD WAS UNTIL EARLIER TODAY, BUT BY THEN... IT WAS TOO LATE.

WHY? WHO IS IT?

THE ONE THEY'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.

A GIRL, ABOUT TEN YEARS OLD, WHO ALREADY POSSESSES THE POWER TO SHIFT THE NATURAL BALANCE IN THE ADVERSARY'S FAVOR.

AND SHE'S COMING FOR US.

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH HER?

PROTECT HER. KEEP HER HIDDEN.

FROM THE EXORCISTS AND ANYONE ELSE WHO MEANS TO HARM HER UNTIL SHE'S READY TO PLAY HER PART IN HER FATHER'S PLAN.

WELL THAT IS A SHIT DEAL.

NOT NECESSAR -ILY.

I'VE GIVEN IT SOME THOUGHT, AND DESPITE A CONSIDERABLE RISK...

...I BELIEVE THIS MAY PROVIDE US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY.

OBVIOUSLY, THE ADVERSARY EXPECTS US TO SUCCUMB TO THE CHILD'S INFLUENCE AND RESORT TO OUR FORMER SELVES. THAT'S THE ONLY REASON BEHIND HIS BARGAIN.

BUT DESPITE HER DARK HERITAGE, THE CHILD IS STILL HALF HUMAN.

WHICH MEANS SHE CAN FALL VICTIM TO OUR INFLUENCE AS WELL.

ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE... KILL HER?

NO, THAT WOULD BE BREAKING THE DEAL.

I AM SUGGESTING WE SWAY HER INSTEAD.

LIKE THE REST OF US, THE CHILD HAS FREE WILL. PERHAPS IF WE INDOCTRINATE HER AGAINST HER FATHER'S VALUES WHILE IN OUR CARE ...

...SHE MAY CHOOSE TO FOIL HIS PLANS WHEN THE TIME COMES AND PREVENT THE APOCALYPSE.

I KNOW IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT WITH OUR COMBINED EFFORTS, I DO BELIEVE IT CAN BE DONE.

I GUESS, BUT... IT'S AWFULLY RISKY.

DO WE EVEN HAVE A CHOICE?

WE DID.

WE HAD A CHOICE, BUT MOT MADE IT FOR US!

DO YOU REALIZE IF YOU HAD ONLY LISTENED TO ME BACK IN THE HOUSE, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED?

WE'D STILL BE LIVING THERE, PESTY'S PETS WOULD STILL BE ALIVE, AND WE WOULDN'T BE FORCED TO SCHOOL THE UNHOLY SPAWN OF SATAN!

THE SPAWN STILL EXISTS, WARRACE! WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH THAT EVENTUALLY.

I ONLY DID WHAT I THOUGHT WAS BEST FOR..

DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP.

YOU DID WHAT YOU WANTED, JUST LIKE YOU ALWAYS HAVE!

DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHO STARTED THIS?

WHO CONVINCED US TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD IN THE FIRST PLACE?

BECAUSE I DO.